

the association's scholarship program and oversees the daily functions of the center.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing Mr. James Siciliano as he is honored by the Italian American Memorial Association and thanking him for his countless contributions to the community.

HONORING THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the Older Americans Act 50th Anniversary. Originally passed in 1965, the Older Americans Act ensures that older individuals and their caregivers have access to a wide array of services. Aside from Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, services such as community-based care, meal delivery, health prevention programs, and elder rights protection are just a few of the many vital programs that the Older Americans Act provides.

The population age 65 and over increased by 24.7 percent between 2003 and 2013 and the number of individuals in need of aging programs continues to rise. Nearly 50 million older Americans and Americans with disabilities rely on Medicare coverage and more than 70 million individuals depend on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program for their health care needs. Nearly 42 million Americans receive Social Security retirement benefits and for 6 out of 10 seniors, Social Security provides most of their income. I strongly believe in solvent Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security systems that give older Americans the security they need.

As for the impact of the community and social services provided by the Older Americans Act, the aging network serves an average of 11 million people each year. For example, over a five year period, 130 million rides to doctors' offices, grocery stores, and other locations were provided. More than 1 billion meals were served and 95 percent of those served would recommend the nutrition program. Nearly 20 million hours of case management, over 60 million hours of homemaker services, and more than 30 million hours of respite care were provided, helping older adults continue to live in their own homes. Through the Senior Community Service Employment Program, more than 200,000 participants provided almost 248 million hours of community service, effectively allowing seniors to give back to their community.

As the Baby Boomer Generation enters the 65 and over age bracket and the average life expectancy lengthens, it is clear that we cannot afford a shortage of services. As we celebrate the Older Americans Act 50th Anniversary, we must also keep in mind that these services often end up on the chopping block. On this historic day, I hope that we can all work together to find ways to continue to provide these vital services to our older Americans.

CONGRATULATING THE CHAMOIS HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chamois High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Chamois High School for a job well done.

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas A&M University has recently announced the new Texas A&M-Chevron Engineering Academies at two year colleges across Texas, including Houston Community College. This allows more students to receive a high quality engineering degree. The Texas Workforce Commission projects that by 2022 the state of Texas will need 62,000 more engineers, and this program is one of the ways Texas is going to get there.

In this program, students can complete their first two years of core classes at HCC and be granted full emission into Texas A&M to complete their major specific classes. Students will be able to learn in smaller environments for a fraction of the price. It combines the best from both schools, the atmospheres and learning setting. HCC already offers a wide variety of engineering majors, and now with A&Ms majors available to them, the possibilities for these students are endless.

Texas A&M is one of the top engineering programs not only in the state of Texas, not only in the country, but the world. Much like the 19th century British empire, the sun never sets in Aggieland, for they have campuses set all over the world.

Houston Community College has 60,000 students annually and serves Houston as one of the top schools to earn a degree from. This partnership is ensuring that more students have access to a top engineering education and the connections they make through this will benefit not only them, but our future economy and industrial developments throughout the world.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING OUR NATION'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONALS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the invaluable contribution to public safety made by community corrections professionals in the United States and throughout the world. Every year, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) and its allied members set aside a week to honor these valued public servants, and this year, they have chosen July 12–18 to mark Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2015. I am proud to stand in support of corrections professionals not only in the District of Columbia but around the world.

In the nation's capital, thousands of women and men serve as pretrial, probation and parole officers or administrators. As public servants, these constituents, along with many other Americans, commit themselves on a daily basis to helping improve the lives of those involved in the criminal justice system. Mr. Speaker, the work of these professionals ultimately results in stronger and safer communities for all.

Community corrections professionals are responsible for supervising adult and juvenile offenders in communities throughout our nation. In many cases, these trained professionals go above and beyond the call of duty by providing their clients supportive services or referrals to critical community-based resources, employment opportunities and housing programs. Additionally, community corrections professionals provide services, support, and protection for victims, while continuously promoting the importance of crime prevention and restorative justice.

In honor of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2015, I recognize, in particular, the community corrections and supervision services carried out here in the District of Columbia by the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) and the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA). CSOSA and PSA stand out as model community supervision agencies due to both their professionalism and their novel, partnership-based approach to reentry and public safety in the District of Columbia.

On any given day, CSOSA is responsible for supervising approximately 12,000 individuals on probation, parole or supervised release, whereas PSA supervises roughly 20,000 defendants. Charged with having to balance issues of public safety with social services and reentry support, the employees of CSOSA and PSA help to enhance the security of everyone that lives, works or visits the District of Columbia.

I extend my gratitude to these public servants for their commitment, compassion and contributions to healthier and safer communities throughout the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in acknowledging the impact community corrections professionals have on the quality of life of so many Americans, and recognizing July 12–18 as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2015.